

## REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for her courtesy in acknowledging the receipt of the certified copy of the priority document and approving the amended drawings.

In paragraph 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1 and 3-6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over European Patent Document EP 0 976 346 A2 (hereinafter "EP '346") in view of European Patent Document EP 0 972 466 A2 (hereinafter "EP '466"). .

Reconsideration is requested.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of Claim 2 in order to more precisely define the invention.

The EP '346 patent is concerned with a joining device whee the

It is therefore requested that the examiner withdraw the §102 rejection of claim 1.

In paragraph 7 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over EP '346 in view of Lerich, United States Patent No. 3,967,525 (hereinafter "Lerich")

Reconsideration is requested.

Claim 2 is dependent on amended claim 1 and therefore also includes the subject matter of original claim 7. Based on the new recitations in claim 1 this rejection is rendered moot. It is therefore requested that the §103 rejection of claim 2 be withdrawn.

In paragraph 8 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over EP '346 in view of European Patent Document EP 0 972 466 A2 (hereinafter "EP '466").

Reconsideration is requested.

Claim 1 has been amended to point out that the operation grain (23) has complimentary threads at a first end that engage a threaded hole (25) in a blocking beam and also has an abutment crown (30) above the complimentary threads as well as at the end opposite the end having threads, a shaft (31). The shaft (31) has a groove (32) for housing a sealing element (33) comprising a broken ring and the socket (19) has a hole (34) that is adapted for housing the shaft (31) and the sealing element (33). This defined structure results in a an operation grain that is stabilized and locked at an internal end while the threaded end engages complimentary threads in the blocking means that exerts a force when nthe threaded operation grain (23) is tightened.

EP '346 discloses a connection device for joining a support structure, such as a leg, to a table or desk where the operation grain does not have a shaft at the end opposite the threaded portion that engages the blocking element. The shaft and the locking ring allow for easier assembly because the shaft retains the operation grain in a operable position whereas the EP '346 arrangement does not provide any upper shaft and does not provide any other means for retaining the operation grain in an operable position to facilitate the engagement of the threaded portion of the operation grain to the blocking means.

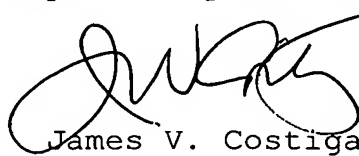
EP '466 is concerned with a leg connection device where a fully threaded operation grain engages a threaded nut to apply horizontal force against an expandable body that is attached to the table top. This fully threaded operation grain is not adapted with a groove to hold a sealing element for the purpose of retaining the operation grain in an operable position where it is allowed to rotate freely in order to be tightened on its threaded end and

exert the necessary force to hold the blocking means in a fixed position. For these reasons, the combined teachings of the cited references fail to make obvious the subject matter defined by the amended claims.

Claim 2 has been canceled. The Lerich reference describes in Figs. 1 and 2, a technique of anchoring a bolt in concrete by providing a series of five broken rings that are initially mounted above a series of complementary v-shaped ridges over which the broken rings roll as the bolt is inserted and tightened within a rough walled hole in concrete. As amended, claim 1 of the present invention points out that the broken ring is housed in a groove which is not shown by Lerich. The Lerich technique of tightly winding a wire around the threads of a bolt to form a friction fitted device in Fig. 3 and 4 does not use a ring but rather a spiral wound friction element that is placed around a "tapered" (col. 4, lines 61-63). In addition, the teachings derived from the Lerich concrete anchors are not properly combinable with the primary references because these references deal with non-analogous arts and in addition, Lerich is concerned with fixing a bolt to concrete and to a hole in a metal surface.

An early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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